

GENERAL NOTES.

Leach's Petrel inland in Massachusetts.—A boy picked up a Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) on one of the streets in Clinton, Mass., Sept. 27, 1905. The bird was alive and apparently uninjured, but it refused to eat anything and died October 2. When it was skinned, a wound was found on the head, as if the bird had flown against a wire. This may explain why it was so easily caught, when apparently there was nothing the matter with it. The town of Clinton is thirty-five miles from the sea. The bird is now in the Thayer Museum.—JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

The Name of the Western Sandpiper.—The Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes occidentalis*) was described in detail and with accuracy by Lawrence in 1864 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1864, p. 107), with the habitat, "Pacific Coast; California, Oregon."

Heteropoda mauri was named, but not described, by Bonaparte in 1838, in his 'Geographical and Comparative List of the Birds of Europe and North America' (p. 49). Its distribution is given as "South and Central parts [of North America]," in comparison with "America generally" for his *H. semipalmata* Wilson (= *pusilla* Linn.). The next reference to the species, by Bonaparte, is in the 'Compte Rendu' for 1856, p. 596, in a nominal list of the Scolopacidae, where there is no description nor indication of locality beyond the inclusion of the species in the list of 'American' species, and the citation, in parenthesis, of "*cabanisi*, Licht." and "*semipalmata* Gundl."

In the same year, Gundlach (Journ. f. Orn., Nov. 1856, pp. 419, 420), apparently for the first time, described the species, basing his description on a series of 5 specimens shot in Cuba, in winter, from a flock of large birds. He distinguished two species of *Ereunetes* in Cuba, a small and a large one. The small one he at first considered to be a new species and described it, in 1850, in Lembeye's 'Aves Cuba,' as *Hemipalma minor*, but later, in 1856, he identified it with *Tringa semipalmata* Wilson, and adopted Bonaparte's name *Heteropoda mauri* for the larger one. He says the two forms are very similar in coloration, but that one is much larger than the other, with very much longer bill and tarsus. He expressed himself in this connection as not having the least doubt of their specific distinctness. He gave the length of the bill in three specimens of the large form as, respectively, one inch, eleven twelfths of an inch, and ten and one third twelfths, as against nine and three-fourths twelfths in the small form; while the length of the tarsus was as ten and three-fourths twelfths to ten twelfths. These measurements of *mauri* are fully up to those given for *occidentalis* by Ridgway, in Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's 'Water Birds of North America' (Vol. I, p. 207).

As *Ereunetes occidentalis* is of frequent occurrence in the Atlantic coast States, particularly in Florida, and evidently also in Cuba, and as the name *mauri*, as given standing by Gundlach, antedates *occidentalis* by eight years, it appears that Dubois (Synopsis Avium, p. 949) was quite justified in bringing *mauri* forward as a substitute for *occidentalis*, and the form should stand as *Ereunetes mauri* Gundlach.—J. A. ALLEN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

Additional American Records of the Ruff.—In 'The Auk' for October, 1905, pp. 410, 411, Mr. Ruthven Deane published a list of 16 American specimens of the Ruff (*Pavoncella pugnax*). To this list at least six additions should be made, one for South America, two for Barbados, two for Rhode Island, and one for Massachusetts. Five of these records have already been published and for the privilege of recording the sixth bird, a specimen from Massachusetts, I am indebted to Mr. Deane and Mr. John E. Thayer. This specimen, a female, shot by Alfred Dabney on Nantucket, late in July, 1901, was mounted, and is now in the Thayer collection at Lancaster, Mass.

The data for the early records of the Ruff leave much to be desired in the way of completeness. Giraud in 1844 mentioned the fact that "the Ruff, Wheatear, Skylark, and other foreign species have been found on Long Island," but apparently thought that they were birds which had escaped from captivity (Birds of Long Island, p. 309). The first positive record of the species in America is probably that for Barbados, noted by Schomburgk in 1848, instead of that for New Brunswick, published by Boardman in 1862, as stated by Mr. Deane, but in neither case is the exact date of capture known. The first record for North America is apparently the Long Island note published by Lawrence in 1852 in the 'Annals' of the Lyceum of Natural History. Prof. Baird in referring to the species in 1858 said: "The ruff has been so frequently killed on Long Island as to entitle it to a place among descriptions of North American birds, although it can not be said to belong to our fauna" (Pac. R. R. Reports, IX, p. 737). But the only bird in the list which represents those 'so frequently killed on Long Island' prior to 1858, is the Lawrence specimen now in the American Museum of Natural History.

The southernmost record for the species is indefinite both as to date and locality. It was based on 'an abnormally colored specimen' collected by H. Munzberg in 'Spanish Guiana' and submitted for examination with other specimens to Pelzeln, by H. E. Hodek, a taxidermist of Vienna. Pelzeln's notes on Hodek's specimens appeared in 'The Ibis' for 1875, but how much earlier the bird was killed is not known. In the Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, Vol. XXIV, p. 506, Sharpe gives the locality as 'Dutch Guiana,' but Pelzeln, who uses the term 'Spanish Guiana,' states that it probably refers to the territory between the Upper Rio Negro and the Orinoco or the adjacent part of New Granada.